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The duration of the present convention shall be 23 years; if not denounced 6 months before the end of this term by either of the contracting Governments it shall be considered as extended for a further period of 3 years.

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#### AUSTRALIA.

##### Sydney—Examination of Rodents.

According to a statement issued by the department of health of New South Wales, 591 rodents were examined at Sydney for plague infection during the two weeks ended September 14, 1912. No plague-infected rodent was found.

#### CHINA.

##### Hongkong—Plague—Examination of Rats.

Surg. Brown reports: During the week ended August 26, 1912, there were reported at Hongkong 2 cases of plague with 2 deaths.

During the same period there were examined for plague infection 1,262 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

##### Nanking—Cholera.

Cholera was reported prevalent, August 29, at Nanking. One case was reported among Europeans.

##### Shanghai—Cholera.

During the week ended September 7, 1912, there were reported 7 cases of cholera occurring in the non-Chinese population, which numbers 14,000 inhabitants.

#### CUBA.

##### Habana—Examination of Rats.

During the week ended October 5, 1912, there were examined at Habana for plague infection 535 rats. No plague-infected rat was found.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

##### Plague on Steamship in River Tyne.

The following information was taken from a statement issued September 28, 1912, by the local government board:

An imported case of human plague has occurred on board a vessel in the River Tyne Port sanitary district.

The patient was an apprentice on board the steamship *Bellavilla*, which arrived in the River Tyne from Hamburg on the morning of September 10. Later in the day the boy was taken ill and was removed to the floating hospital as a case of typhoid fever. On the following day the port medical officer of health suspected the case to be plague, and a sample of the patient's blood was taken for examination. On September 13 the bacteriologist at the College of Medicine, Newcastle, reported that cultures from the material showed colonies resembling *B. pestis*, and further samples of blood were taken.

The boy died on September 16, and on September 18 a post-mortem examination was made by the port medical officer of health and further material obtained for examination. The diagnosis of the case as one of plague has been confirmed at the board's laboratory.

An apprentice from the steamship *Bellarisa* was taken ill before the vessel left Hamburg, and died there on September 4. Another fell ill off Cuxhaven, and is in hospital at that port. It is reported that both patients were suffering from plague.

No further cases of plague have occurred in the River Tyne port sanitary district. Every precaution has been taken to insure that no spread of infection shall occur.

#### **Further Relative to Plague on Steamship Bellarisa at Hamburg.**

The following information, dated October 3, was received from the burgomaster of the State of Hamburg through the American consul general at Hamburg: During the three weeks that have elapsed since the occurrence of the two cases of plague on the steamship *Bellarisa* no further cases of the disease have occurred at Hamburg. The probabilities indicate that the origin of the contagion was not in Hamburg, but on board the vessel. The persons attacked occupied the same compartment on board ship. The vessel did not lie alongside the quay while at Hamburg, but was unloaded in midstream. Ten dead rats found on board during the vessel's stay at this port were examined, but no plague infection was found.

NOTE.—The steamship *Bellarisa* left Rosario, Argentina, July 2, for Hamburg via Cape Verde Islands.

#### **HAWAII.**

##### **Examination of Rodents for Plague Infection.**

During the week ended September 21, 1912, 691 rats and mongoose were examined at Hilo and 1,575 at Honokaa. No plague infection was found.

At Honolulu during the same week 153 rats were examined. No plague infection was found.

The last case of human plague occurred at Pepeekeo, Hawaii, September 13, 1912. The last plague-infected rat was found at Olaa, Hawaii, September 9, 1912.

#### **ITALY.**

##### **Cholera in Sardinia.**

Cholera has been reported in Cagliari, Island of Sardinia, as follows: Week ended September 17, 1912, 6 cases with 4 deaths; week ended September 24, 1912, 5 cases with 3 deaths.

#### **JAPAN.**

##### **Cholera at Tokyo.**

Four cases of cholera were reported at Tokyo September 4, 1912.

#### **MEXICO.**

##### **Yellow Fever.**

During the week ended October 12, 1912, there were reported in the vicinity of San Juan Bautista, State of Tabasco, 4 cases of yellow fever, with 2 deaths. The cases were distributed in four localities, viz, Comalcalco, Cunduacan, Jalapa, and Huimanguillo, distant from San Juan 64, 32, and 80 kilometers, respectively.